

BUSINESS

SECTION


WEDNESDAY
 MAY 17, 2006

DOW ↑ 0.86 11,419.89	BONDS 30-yr U.S. 5.21% ↑ 0.07
NASDAQ ↑ 0.39 2,229.13	DOLLAR in Yen 109.72 ↑ 0.48
S&P 500 ↑ 2.47 1,292.08	GOLD New York \$691.50 ↑ 7.90

GOOD Jo-Ann 7.5%
DAY: Store Inc.
BAD Agilent Technologies
 -8.2%

Inc. magazine lauds Inland business climate

TOP 10: The area's affordable housing and white-collar job growth puts it fifth on the list.

BY DEVONA WELLS
 THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Inc. magazine has again ranked the Inland Empire among the country's best places to do business.

The San Bernardino-Riverside area placed fifth out of 60 of the nation's large regions for entrepreneurs in the maga-

zine's May issue. Though the Inland area beat Orange County, San Diego and Phoenix, its ranking slipped from last year when the region took first place.

For 2005, the Inland Empire stood out for home prices that remain affordable compared to its coastal neighbors and white-collar jobs replacing blue-collar ones, the magazine said. More than 2 million square feet of office space is under construction in the two counties, according to Grubb & Ellis.

The region's availability of

ulate private investment," he said.

Southern California economist Joel Kotkin, who wrote the Inc. article, said the area's economy has become stronger as it has become more diverse, including in the finance arena, warehousing and manufacturing.

"I would say the Inland Empire will likely be the growth leader of Southern California for the foreseeable future," he said.

The region's labor force, with people who want to work and

IN MAIN NEWS

■ Inland housing market cools. **A1**

land and booming population allow it to continue outshining others in California, said Michael Beck, Riverside's assistant city manager. Getting national attention for the good business climate year after year creates an economic snowball effect, he said.

"It continues to legitimize the economic opportunities occurring in the Inland region, and it should continue to stim-

have the skills, is particularly attractive to companies looking to land in the Inland Empire, said Linda Daniels, Rancho Cucamonga's redevelopment director. Getting the word out in a national magazine helps sway those already paying more attention than they once did to the region, she said.

"Third-party validation of things we're trying to shout to the world is always important," she said.

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BEST FOR BUSINESS

Inc. magazine's 10 hottest regions

- 1: Las Vegas
- 2: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- 3: Orlando, Fla.
- 4: West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, Fla.
- 5: San Bernardino-Riverside
- 6: Phoenix
- 7: Northern Virginia
- 8: Washington, D.C.
Arlington-Alexandria
- 9: Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.
- 10: Camden-Burlington counties, N.J.